May it please Your Highness,

I have an abiding interest in your state and have been watching its progress with great expectation and admiration. I have little concern in whom Your Highness calls to serve the State, so long as it is well and wisely served. Of late I have been reading a great deal about the aims and aspirations of your province under the guidance of your present Dewan, both his optimistic utterances and now wearisome reiterated lucubrations and the praises often pitched in hyperbolic key of his admirers in the press. I am one of the few who think that much of this talk and self assurance is hollow and that the administration has been drifting into chaos notwithstanding incessant brag about efficiency audits and progress on up to date lines.

My sole object in addressing this and the following letters is to warn Your Highness of the general trend of things , so that proper precautions may be adopted before it is too late.

I have no wish to court popularity or notoriety by rushing to the press, or to lessen the regard high regard with which your State is regarded outside by a public exposure of the tricks and wiles of those about you. For various reasons, I must remain anonymous but your Highness may rest assured that I shall not take advantage of the screen to resort to any mean abuse of others to suit any private grudge or other ill feeling.

Praying that this and the following epistles may be read by Your Highness alone and kept and pondered over confidentially, I beg to subscribe myself as Your Highness's

Disinterested Well wisher.

May it please Your Highness ,

Your Highness tried a bold experiment when appointing an Executive Engineer as Dewan of the State. It is time to take stock of gains and losses. No one with any experi--ence of General administration would have so run amuck against received notions and customary ways. There is no doubt that officialdom in Mysore had fallen into deep ruts and sleepy ways and needed awakening. The unconventional and inexperienced Dewan has succeeded in wakening them up. But he has not been able to get their sympathy or win their respect. He has been more like a monkey let loose in a toy shop, and no wonder!

It is wonderful how he has succeeded in hoodwinking some into thinking that he is a prodigy of acumen and activ--ity. Perhaps it is to be accounted for by certain tricks and turns of which he is a passed master. He knows how to play to the gallery; he can talk glibly of progress and tickle the vanity of the public. He is praised in the newspapers, praised by the men whom he flatters and cajols by giving parties and luncheons and pretending to consult in all things great and small. No wonder if even Your Highness believes the plaudits of unthinking and interested persons in your estimate of the man.

But a ruler who should be cautious and discriminating in his estimate of men and things is expected to dip beneath the surface. Now that he has been Dewan for three years, it is of little use to speak of his initial unfitness for the post. We have rather to see whether he has done anything to justify the extraordinary trust Your Highness reposed in him. For this purpose I propose to present to Your Highness a series of short sketches of what he has done or tried to do in each Department. That he has done or made others believe that he has done a great deal in all departments cannot be denied. But much of what he has exhibited as his original work is merely a repetition of what has been long in force, put in different language; much is worthless, and destined to end in smoke even if it does not produce any mischievous results. A great deal of what is shown as a stroke of genius and as immeasurably superior to the work of his predecessors, is the merest claptrap and nonsense; while there is much that is positively reckless and mischievous and likely to leave behind a crop of baneful results which will endure for a long time after his departure.

It is wonderful, if it were not so s d, how impudence and ϕγ overweening self confidence, linked to a cunning nature and superficial polish can carry a man through in this world. it does not require much ability or experience in the real work of administration if one has unlimited self conceit and knows how to play his social cards well. Even an ignoramus can succeed in making a passable Dew n if he surrounds himself with a large number of men who are at home in the various departments of business, and is content to pick all the brains and choose what appeals as best to his uninstucted imagin tion. But we were accoustomed to something more in our Dewans who usually were men who h d demonstrated their fitness for the place. To prove whether this statement is just, Your Highness h s only to compare with what immediate entourage, his predecessors managed the administration and how the Head Quarter Establishment has become larger and larger since he came into power. Not only larger , but the most promising young officers are all taken to He d Quarters, one after another to the detriment of the districts and the detriment of the officers who are deprived of the opportunities of learning work in contact with the district officers and district people, and wl

who start with wind in their heads and exaggerated notions of their inherent merits.

II Secretariat and Head Quarter Establishments.

When the Dewan came into power, there was one secretary in charge of all the Departments except those under Heads of Departments as Secretaries also. These were the Public Works Geological, Military and financial Departments. The Public works and Financial Departments now remain as before but the Geological and military have been transferred. It was well known that the Secretariat work of these two Departments was almost nothing. Yet the establishment in the Secretariat has been largely increased without any corresponding decrease in the officers of the Heads of the Departments, by appointing additional assistants and clerks.

In place of one Secretary, there are now three for revenue, General and Education Departments. Your Highness will probably be told that work has increased in the same proportion. This may or may not be true and a mere onlooker like me cannot find out the truth. But has any enquiry been made as to whether the increase of work is useful, and whether any attempt has been made to cut away useless labour and put a limit to the needless waste of paper and spilling of ink in producing endless tables and reports which no one reads, and of which no use can be made except to show off quantity. The number of officers in the Secretariat has been increased and though much of the work usually done in the Home office is now done in the Secretariat, the Dewan has two officers more attending on him than the previous Dewans.

Why all this increase? Is it not because the Dewan is not at home in most of the departments of work that go before him. It is well known that he wants notes upon notes abridgements of abridgements, statements in a hundred different ways, and that he hardly has ever the patience to read and understand them. He has not the good sense fully to trust those who know more than himself, except some who have studied his weak points and manage to play up to his particular tunes and flatter his vanities. It is well known who are his mentors in various departments, and how the junior officers and clerks have been made to feel that they are the real arbiters of difficult cases which come up to the Dewan in official course of business.

It is only in respect of his particular fads, that the Dewan spends his time and thought. On the ordinary work of administration, he apparently considers it a waste of time

to spend his time o.r thought, or perhaps from a knowledge of his defects, he pretends to consider this work as of a lower order. He is all bustle nd hustle in respect of his hare-brained purposes and wildcat schemes; but papers of ordinary business which go to him are often detained for months together.

III New Schemes.

Though without direct experience of any work except the Public works, the present Dewan early in his career set himself out to show to the world that he was an admir ble Crichton of administration, and that he would le ve his mark on all br nches of it. The ambition was laudable, but alas! intentions and aspirations do not create ability and bring about fulfilment. A scheme had been matured for the revision of the establishment in Taluks and District offices, and it w.s brought into effect after the present Dewan c me into office. The so-called block system of wet cultivation has been put into action on a small p rt of lands under the Marikanve Reservoir, with a great deal of eclat as to the value of the system and its origin lity. But the idea of removing wet cultivation from the neighbourhood of villages had long ago been inculc.ted and practised. The other features of the scheme are only an enhancement of rates by taking wet assessment of for three acres and allowing only one to be irrigated. The other schemes npw and then aired forth in grandiloquent l.ngu.ge are merely in the womb of the future.

Vague aspirations for amelioration with equally vague ideas of present defects and possible remedies have character -ised his dealings with other departments of st te. Of course s Dewan he gets the benefit of whatever good others may help t to bring about, but that may pass. In the Judicial Department in which he is as ignorant as a/ newborn babe, there are st still one or two things of which he might take sole credit. One of these which he is said to specially value, is the a/ appointment of the Chief Judge on a larger salary than was given ever before. Probably your Highness has by now seen the mistake of having spent so much of the State money with/ absolutely no compensating advantage. The accounts Department has grown to abnormal proportions, and the Dewan has shown himself quite unable to curtail its demands. In the Excise department, the question of rights of inamdars has been dragging its unsolved existence for years past, and the Dewan who is so eager for advertising f.ds has not cared to remove the g/ grievances of a large body of men.

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IV. Public orks.

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The Dewan c me here as Chief Engineer nd Secret ry for Public orks. The very first step showed the bent of his mind. He insisted that he should be paid more th n his predecessors had had hig . The anxiety of Governme nt to have n economic l administration had given rise to various pro,osals by the Retrenchment Committee which had been accepted by Gov. nment. It bec me an er ielo of creed with him that all these schemes of molor ting exp enditure should be cod mned outright;and th t the efficiency and prestige of Department required that s l ries nd emoluments should be increased all round. The work of the R Retrenchment Committee and the orders of Government all became a le d l tter; and th financial Department wh ch opposing even trivial proposal for additional expenditure became more and more powerless. The Dewan was an unwilling party, but was too weak to withstand the influence of his . . Secretary.

After the promo Chief Engine r was elevate to the position of the Chief inister, there was practically no

one to withhold his extravagant taste for which expenditure. The coherer Members of Government were ignored and proposals of this even however extravagant or fruitless were allowed being carried through. The voice of the financial department which was once very powerful and sometimes unreasonably hindering to previous schemes, became more and more powerless; and the financial Secretary with a shrewd sense of the direction of the prevailing wind, veered round in the direction of the storm, and sometimes authorised hereleft in the matter of supporting expenditure of the Public funds.

With all this, it would be strange, if a Public Servant could not show progress and improvements in his own special department. But there is no need to exaggerate his merits and achievements. If the new Canvery Reservoir will stand for all time as a monument of his administration, it his more his luck than his genius that has brought it about The scheme is not as every one knows his discovery, and even the estimates had been prepared. For its becoming a remunerative project, the Gold Field market had long been existing and was ready to take up and pay for all the power generated.

The second stage of the project for which he may well take more credit, is still in the womb of the future. It is not much after all to build a large dam especially on a foundation already laid, if only the money is available. But easily how calculations of increased cultivation and increased revenue have been carelessly upset in our past projects, it will not be unreasonable to suspend one's judgment about the possibilities of this gigantic scheme.

The additional ~~additional~~ electric installations are of the same character. The scheme is an old one and the ready market for power in the sole cause of its success.

There is a certain periodicity in the financial administration of Mysore. One or two Dewans either by design or by want of boldness or foresight, stint expenditure and hoard money. Ever since the days of Sir Krishna Murti, both Your Highness and the Dewan (with a slight exception perhaps during Mr. Madhava Rao's days) were for rigid economy. The Private Secretaries to Your Highness and the Financial Secretary sometimes with the British Resident thrown in,

[illegible] for [illegible]; [illegible] if the lesser [illegible]
[illegible] of initiative and ability to [illegible]
[illegible] new schemes or improvements, they were continually
[illegible] down by the opposition they encountered on all
sides. Mr Vlevsvorvyn came of a most fortunate moment,
and when he found a full treasury, he cleverly threw in
his energy in the direction of finding useful channels of
employment. Fortunate it would have been for Ajaro if the
cobbler had been able to stick to his last. The open le
railway policy is the result of this fortunate concourse of
circumstances, and it is to the credit of the man that he
has adopted it wholeheartedly. But it must be said that it
did not need any very great engineering genius to discover
this direction of work and I believe the policy was begun
in the latter stage of Mr. Amalia Rao's tenure of office.
However Mr Vlevsvorvyn appears to be found when the
work is being vigorously pushed and no one will grudge him
the credit of his luck.